

whiteness, without any terminations of shadows, the refraction of a Prism should make Rings of Colours appear, whereas it usually makes Objects appear coloured only there where they are terminated with shadows, or have parts unequally luminous; and that it should make those Rings exceedingly distinct and white, although it usually renders Objects confused and coloured. The cause of these things you will understand by considering, that all the Rings of Colours are really in the plate, when viewed with the naked Eye, although by reason of the great breadth of their circumferences they so much interfere and are blended together, that they seem to constitute an even whiteness. But when the rays pass through the Prism to the Eye, the orbits of the several Colours in every Ring are refracted, some more than others, according to their degrees of refrangibility: By which means the Colours on one side of the Ring (that is on one side of its Center) become more unfolded and dilated, and those on the other side more complicated and contracted. And where by a due refraction they are so much contracted, that the several Rings become narrower than to interfere with one another, they must appear distinct, and also white, if the constituent Colours be so much contracted as to be wholly coincident. But, on the other side, where the orbit of every Ring is made broader by the further unfolding of its Colours, it must interfere more with other Rings than before, and so become less distinct.

Fig. 7. To explain this a little further, suppose the concentric Circles A V, and B X, represent the red and violet of any order, which, together with the intermediate Colours,

Colours, constitute being viewed through will by a greater its place than the it on that side, to For instance, if t may be translated at x than before, to a v , the violet $b x$ as to convene further translated further translated convene with it not only of the r intermediate Colo those Colours, y same revolution $r \xi$, and their co stitute pretty di or at e and f , and $x v$, and at $x v e$ and again appear order to that w beyond e and f . or $a \beta$, these Col fed by being dila those of other C happen at $r \xi$ be great, or the Pris In which case no only two little A